

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 7 – 10 and new claims 11 – 14 are pending, with claims 7 – 10 being independent. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, claims 1, 2, and 5 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. New claims 11 – 14 have been added, dependent upon claims 7 – 10 respectively. Support for the new claims may be found in the original claims, for example, in claim 2, as well as throughout the specification. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicants initially would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 7 – 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by EP 0454060, DD 293816, DD 293824, and the cited Chemical Abstracts article. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, claims 1, 2, and 5 have been canceled to expedite prosecution and to pursue an early allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been obviated. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over EP 0454060, DD 293816, DD 293824, and the cited Chemical Abstracts article. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, claims 1, 2, and 5 have been canceled to expedite prosecution and to pursue an early allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been obviated. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 7 – 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the foregoing

amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the claims and allowance of the subject application is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: Melissa M. Hayworth
Melissa M. Hayworth
Registration No. 45,774

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

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